

Light Spectacle Prompts Look At Past Efforts

Herald 1-6-84

As the beauty and enchantment of Provo's downtown Christmas lighting lingers in memory, perhaps you would enjoy a few glimpses into the beginnings of the yuletide tradition here.

Colored street lights, caroling, and store decorations were standby features of the Christmas celebrations more than a half century ago.

By 1934, the year a parade was made part of the observance, the sponsoring Chamber of Commerce Retail Merchants Committee already was receiving inquiries from other states on the festivity.

That parade prompted the Herald to comment: "Never has Provo put on a more colorful and successful celebration."

By 1937, Provo was being publicized as "the Christmas City," with the festival of that year called "Utah's greatest Christmas opening event."

For a typical yule celebration in those years, Provo firemen and later the Utilities Department would string the colored downtown lights. Then, at the designated evening hour, the mayor would present a Christmas message and throw a switch that would turn on the lights and signal the start of the parade.

My memory of Christmas festivals goes back to the mid-thirties when I, as a Brigham Young University student, joined the Herald staff as a part-time reporter. I enjoyed browsing through the old Herald files the other day for reminders of those celebrations.

A float bearing Santa Claus and his reindeer highlighted the initial parade in 1934, setting a pattern followed in most years since. The schools played a major role in the early parades, sponsoring floats, marching units, etc. It wasn't uncommon for seven or eight bands to participate, with BYU's band in the lead.

Who were the early leaders instrumental in building the "Christmas City" tradition? The retail merchants, working through the Chamber of Commerce, were the prime movers, similar to the setup today. Provo City and the schools were enthusiastic cooperators.

Clayton Jenkins, the enterprising Chamber of Commerce executive secretary in that period was a capable leader and coordinator.

If you're a long-time Provoan,



**N. LaVerl
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Editor Emeritus

you will recognize names on this partial list of celebration directors and parade masters:

1934 — C. F. Petersen, general chairman; Clarence Harmon parade.

1935 — E. B. Shriver, general chairman.

1936 — Sidney Russell, general chairman; J. M. Killpack, parade.

1937 — Alma E. Wright, general chairman; McKay Christensen, parade.

1938 — McKay Christensen, general chairman; Clarence Harmon, parade.

After the parade of 1936 the Herald interviewed several dignitaries for comments. All were highly enthusiastic. Two of them, Chamber of Commerce President Jesse N. Ellertson and Secretary Jenkins expressed the hope that the colorful celebration "would be perpetuated annually."

It has been indeed — and all of Utah Valley benefits each year from the winter wonderland and the spirit of Christmas which it brings.

Of the celebration innovations and refinements in the past decade, the most spectacular undoubtedly has been improvement and artistry of the downtown lighting. New agencies which have become involved have added ideas, leadership and man and woman power as well as broadening the base of community pride.

We are confident you would agree: This year's lighting topped them all! A hearty "bravo" to all who have helped build the Provo Christmas tradition in the past and those who are perpetuating it in such fine style today.

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Astro-Graph

Future in the Stars

Jan. 7, 1984

Abundant opportunities lie ahead for you in the coming year, but you must take care not to go off on tangents. Before immersing yourself in ventures, carefully analyze their potential.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Something you wish to keep secret could be revealed to the wrong people today if you speak without thinking. Weigh every word. Major changes are in store for Capricorns in the coming year. Send for your Capricorn predictions today by mailing \$1 and your zodiac sign to Astro-Graph, Box 489, Radio City Station, New York, N.Y. 10019. Send an additional \$2 for the NEW Astro-Graph Matchmaker wheel and booklet. Reveals romantic compatibilities for all signs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Unless you monitor your expenditures prudently today, there's a chance that before the day is out you'll spend far more than you intended.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Extra determination and persistence will be required today if you hope to achieve your objectives. Once you let down, you're not apt to recover.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Beware of tendencies today to rationalize matters instead of evaluating them logically. See things for what they are, not for what you'd like them to be.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Today, try not

to let material considerations cause friction between you and someone of whom you are fond. Pals are worth more than money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) In career situations today where others are involved, be sure everyone's aims are in harmony. If there are dissenters, goals won't be accomplished.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Do not assign difficult tasks today to those with poor performance records. There's no reason to think they'll do better today than in the past.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) To your credit, you're rather bold and enterprising. However, today you might be tempted to take foolish risks needlessly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Let reason prevail in domestic situations today. If you introduce emotional elements, small issues could get blown out of proportion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) There is a likelihood of problems at work today if you fail to listen attentively to instructions. Don't daydream.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) It's best you carry a little surplus in your purse today. Unexpected expenses might pop up, and you won't want to be caught short.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) In order to pacify others today you may feel impelled to change your course. You'll end up serving no one, including yourself. Be consistent.

Dr. Lamb

Big Toe, Big Pain

DEAR DR. LAMB — I am afflicted with a rheumatic big toe. It doubles in size and is very uncomfortable. My doctor has diagnosed it as gout caused by too much uric acid in the bloodstream.

He has prescribed ColBENEMID. Sometimes it helps, but other times nothing happens. Can you help me get real, rather than temporary relief, from this condition?

DEAR READER — Gout has plagued man through the ages. Michelangelo had it; so did Ben Franklin. The medicine you are taking is a combination of colchicine and probenecid (Benemid). The colchicine helps control acute attacks of rheumatism and the Benemid aids in eliminating the excess uric acid through the kidneys.

There are really two aspects to managing gout. One is treating the acute attack when it occurs. Some medicines, such as colchicine, are good for this, but may not be helpful in preventing a subsequent attack. Other medicines lower the uric acid level by filtering it out through the kidneys; others prevent the excess production of uric acid by cells.

led to much less reliance on dietary restriction than in the past.

It is important for people with gout to know, however, that fasting and crash diets may precipitate an acute attack.

The current thinking about gout and its treatment are discussed in The Health Letter 16-10, Gout, The Uric Acid Disease, which I am sending you. Others who want this issue can send 75 cents with a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope for it to me, in care of this newspaper, P.O. Box 1551, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10019.

DEAR DR. LAMB — I have never heard anyone snore worse than my daughter. She can be in a light sleep and know what you are talking about and still snore. I have begun to worry us. She is 5 years old and it seems to be getting worse. I'd appreciate any information you have.

DEAR READER — Snoring seems to be one of those problems that we do not have a good answer for. I am convinced that almost everyone snores, but some snore louder and more often than others.

Many remedies really are directed toward keeping the person off his back. One remedy is taping